



Serial No.: 09/451,167

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are now pending in the patent application.

The Obviousness Rejection

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Colonna et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,115,620) in view of Jambhekar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,715,524).

Claim 1 is amended to recite an electronic device featuring a movable housing element with touch sensitive circuitry for providing a force position signal indicative of the position of a contact force thereon by a user in relation to at least one dimension of the movable housing element. The touch sensitive circuitry is shown in Figure 2 as element 30.

To the extent that the obviousness rejection might be applied to claim 1, as amended, it is respectfully traversed because the proposed combination of Colonna et al. in view of Jambhekar et al. does not teach or suggest an electronic device featuring a movable housing element with touch sensitive circuitry that provides a force position signal indicative of the position of a contact force thereon by a user in relation to at least one dimension of the movable housing element to a housing containing communications electronics, as recited in claim 1.

In Colonna et al., the first housing element 202 contains communications electronics, while the movable housing element 204

does not. The first housing element 202 provides a communication signal based on a force position signal indicative of the position of contact on the keypad 206 of the first housing element 202, not the movable housing element 204. In other words, Colonna et al.' movable housing element 204 does not contain touch sensitive circuitry for providing a force position signal, as claimed herein.

Similarly, in Jambhekar et al., the main body housing element 107 contains the communications electronics, not the movable housing element 109. The main body housing element 107 provides a communication signal based on a force position signal indicative of the position of contact on the keypad 125 of the hinged housing element 109, but this force position signal is not provided from the hinged housing element 109. See Jambhekar et al., column 3, lines 21-41, as well as column 3, line 66 through column 4, line 65. In other words, Jambhekar et al.' hinged housing element 109 does not contain touch sensitive circuitry, as claimed herein. In Jambhekar et al., there is no sensing or signal providing circuitry in the hinged housing element 109. Instead, Jambhekar et al.' touch screen display 119 of the main body housing element 107 senses the physical contact applied on the keypad 125 of the hinged housing element 109. The keypad 125 is a passive non-electrical device.

In both cited references, the movable or hinged housing element does not contain touch sensitive circuitry for providing

a force position signal to the main body which has the communications electronics, as claimed herein.

It is respectfully submitted that the reasoning in paragraph 2 of the Office Action does not address this issue.

Dependent Claims 2-3

Claims 2-3 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, contain all the limitations thereof, and are deemed patentable over the proposed combination for all the reasons discussed above.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the reasoning in paragraph 2 appears to be overlooking the "touch sensitive slide" limitation recited in claim 2. It is respectfully submitted that neither Colonna et al. nor Jambhekar et al. suggests such a touch sensitive slide or slidably mounted arrangement.

Independent Claim 4

Claim 4 is amended to recite a communications device featuring a touch sensitive slide being mounted movably on the main body for sliding along the main body, and touch sensitive slide circuitry for providing the touch sensitive slide signal indicative of the position of the contact force in relation to at least one dimension of the touch sensitive slide.

For reasons similar to those discussed above, neither Colonna et al. nor Jambhekar et al. suggests a communications

device featuring such a movable housing element with touch sensitive circuitry for providing a force position signal indicative of the position of a contact force thereon by a user in relation to at least one dimension of the movable housing element to a main body having a communications circuit, as recited in claim 4. Moreover, Colonna et al. and Jambhekar et al. disclose hingably mounted devices, not a slidably mounted device, as claimed herein.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the reasoning in paragraph 2 appears to be overlooking the "touch sensitive slide" limitation recited in claim 4. Similar to that discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that neither Colonna et al. nor Jambhekar et al. suggests such a touch sensitive slide or slidably mounted arrangement.

Dependent Claims 5-31

Claims 5-30 depend directly or indirectly from claim 4, contain all the limitations thereof, and are deemed patentable over the proposed combination for all the reasons discussed above. Claim 31 is added to recite that the touch sensitive slide has a keyboard surface and is responsive to the contact force being applied on the keyboard surface.

Conclusion

Reconsideration and early allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

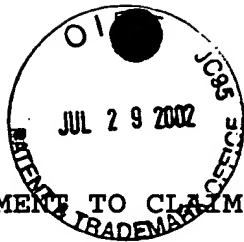
Respectfully submitted,



William J. Barber
Attorney for the Applicant
Registration No. 32,720

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July 29, 2002
WARE, FRESSOLA, VAN DER SLUYS
& ADOLPHSON LLP
Bradford Green, Building Five
755 Main Street, P.O. Box 224
Monroe, CT 06468
(203) 261-1234
Customer No. 004955



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AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS WITH UNDERLINING AND BRACKETING

1. (Twice amended) An electronic device, comprising:
a housing containing communications electronics, responsive to a movable housing element signal, for providing a communications signal to a communications system;

a movable housing element being mounted movably on the housing, responsive to a contact force applied by a user, and having touch sensitive circuitry for providing a force position signal indicative of the position of the contact force in relation to at least one dimension of the movable housing element;

a sensor, for providing a movable housing element position signal indicative of the position of the movable housing element in relation to the housing; and

means for providing the movable housing element signal based on [from] the force position signal and the movable housing element position signal.

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4. (Twice amended) A communications device, comprising:
a main body having a main body communications circuit,
responsive to a touch sensitive slide signal, for providing a
communications signal to a communications system; and

a touch sensitive slide being mounted movably on the main
body for sliding along the main body, responsive to a contact
force applied by a user on the touch sensitive slide, and having
touch sensitive slide circuitry for providing the touch sensitive
slide signal indicative of the position of the contact force in
relation to at least one dimension of the touch sensitive slide.